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Soviet Spy Network Employs Huge Staff in Germany

BONN, Germany (AP) — West Germany is fighting off the most massive Communist espionage attack ever launched against a single country.

Interior Minister Gerhard Schroeder said recently that an estimated 16,000 agents work for East bloc intelligence services in West Germany.

Despite many obstacles, Bonn government agents manage to uncover about 200 agents a month. Still, for every lost spy the Communists seem to have another ready to take his place.

Huge Payroll

High-ranking officials of Red intelligence services, who defected to the West, have reported that about 18,500 persons are full-time employees of Soviet, East German, Polish, Czechoslovakian, Hungarian and Bulgarian spy organizations in East Germany, mostly stationed in or around East Berlin.

The East German Communists alone spend \$125 million a year on espionage and subversive operations against West Germany, Schroeder said.

To combat this operation, the Bonn government employs just over 3,000 counterintelligence agents and office personnel. They operate on an annual budget of \$17.5 million.

Most Dangerous

Officials are reluctant to release precise annual statistics, but in the last eight years courts convicted more than 2,000 persons on espionage charges and more than 19,000 admitted receiving assignments which were not carried out.

According to security officials the most dangerous spy was Alfred Frenzel, 61, Socialist member of the Defense Committee of the Bundestag (Parliament) from 1933 until his arrest last fall.

Frenzel, sentenced to 15 years at hard labor earlier this year, supplied the Czechoslovakian intelligence service with West Germany's defense plans for 1961 and sketched the outlines of the Atlantic Alliance's defense requirements until 1963. The latter

spy, during which he once dined cozily with Director Allen Dulles of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, John defected to East Germany in 1954. He gave the Communists important West German and Allied counterintelligence secrets, including names of agents operating behind the Iron Curtain.

John remained in East Germany for 17 months and then defected to the West. After a long trial, during which he claimed he was drugged, kidnapped and held against his will in East Germany, John was sentenced to four years at hard labor. He served barely half of his sentence.

Recruiting Easy

There were perhaps another half dozen serious cases but the overwhelming majority of agents are "little operators."

Red spy recruiters have a relatively easy job finding prospects in this divided nation. One-fifth of West Germany's population are expellees and refugees from German-speaking areas now dominated by communism. Perhaps every third West German has relatives in Communist East Germany.

The German agent spying on his own country needs no elaborate disguise and before the Communists closed the border around Berlin a great many agents slipped in with the refugee stream.

Few Are Idealists

Western security chiefs say about 80 per cent of the 16,000 agents operating in West Germany are working for the East German Ministry for State Security (MFS) and the East German army's military intelligence branch. The other 20 per cent work directly for the Soviet Union and the other Red countries.

Security officials assert that only 1 out of 1,000 agents is spy-

ing for the Communist for idealistic reasons. The greatest number are in the business for material gain or adventure.

But only a few agents make more than \$100 a month.

Blackmail

Blackmail is an effective and widely used recruiting method. Officials cite the case of the pretty wife of a Bonn Defense Ministry official who was visiting her mother in East Germany. During a family celebration, attended by several officers from the East German Security Ministry, the woman drank a bit too much and was photographed in an "embarrassing situation" with one of the Red agents.

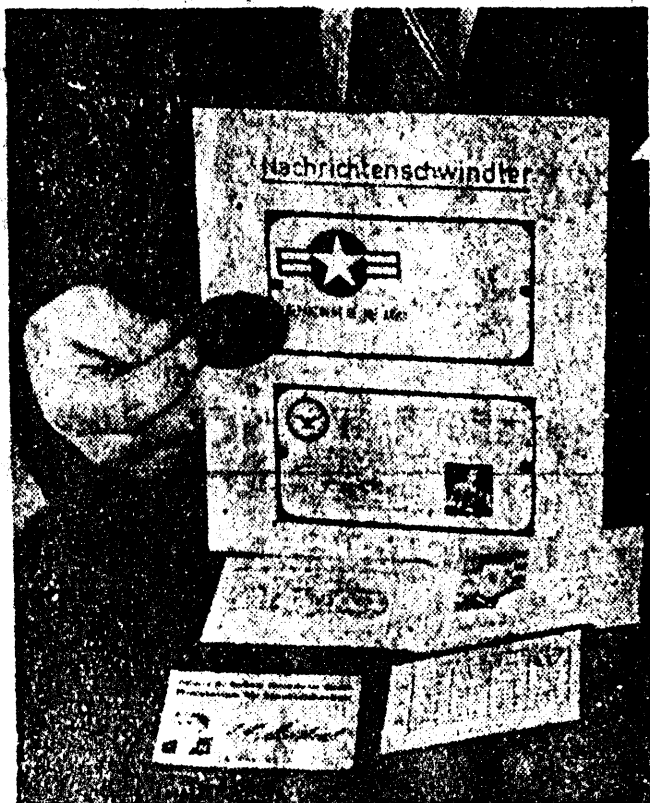
A few days later, an MFS of-

ficer told the woman she would have to spy for the Reds or the photographs would be sent to her husband. Even worse, the woman found out that the "family celebration" was arranged with the cooperation of her family to coerce her into becoming a spy. This experience was so nerve-shattering the woman attempted suicide three times after she returned to the West.

Counterintelligence officials said their biggest obstacle is the courts, which they believe tend to be too lenient with spies.

Interior Minister Schroeder said German courts should follow the examples of their U.S. and British counterparts, which hand out sentences more than twice as long as German courts.

"The Communist intelligence organizations can recruit a person and say: Don't worry if you get caught. You'll only go to jail for a couple of years and when you're free we will take good care of you," one Allied intelligence official commented.



ESPIONAGE EVIDENCE—Some documents used by East German spies. Small cards are credentials of Ministry for State Security; oval disc is secret police badge; card inscribed "Department of the Army" is forged U.S. identification.